



South Portland, Maine 04106

Academic Department

Title: Seminar in Criminal Justice

Catalog Number: CJUS 221-D1

Credit Hours: 3

Total Contact Hours: 45

Lecture (or Lab): Lecture

Instructor: Steve Reece

Office Hours – Upon arrangement via email

Contact Information: sreece@smccme.edu

Course Syllabus

Course Description

This course is designed to acquaint the student with a variety of issues, some controversial, that confront the criminal justice community. The emphasis will be on reading about these issues and then in-depth discussion on the discussion board. In addition, students will research an agency of interest in an effort to prepare the student for employment. This course will focus on developing your critical thinking skills, your writing skills, and hearing various points of view on the topics covered. Prerequisite: CJUS-105

Course Objectives:

After successfully completing the course, the student will be able to:

1. Develop analytical skills by examining a variety of current issues facing the criminal justice system in the United States.
2. Develop an awareness of the current significant issues confronting our system.
3. Enhance both research and debate skills by researching various issues and topics and then arguing and defending both sides of an issue.
4. Demonstrate respect for the ideas and positions of others and consider the thoughts of others in assessing, one's own position.
5. Identify and propose changes in policy, procedure, and the law to better the criminal justice system.

Required Materials

Computer and Internet access.

Articles and videos as assigned.

Student Evaluation and Grading:

Quality of Discussion Posts, and Responses to others on Brightspace

3 Quizzes on covered material

1 application to criminal justice agency and background book (Not required to be submitted to hiring agency)

3 Brief Writing Assignments

Research Paper and Online Presentation of your criminal justice topic

Attendance Policy and more about our Discussion:

Attendance is measured by instructor reports available on Brightspace showing activity of each individual student.

Most weeks you will not be able to see other posts for the week until you post. I want you to share your thoughts of what you will read in our prompts and content material. Share what is interesting to you, hard to understand, something you disagree with, or anything else you want to share with your first written post. It must be related to the material and at least 250 words (you are always free to write more).

A hint is by asking a question in your post it will promote discussion, and an exchange of ideas or thoughts!

In addition, you are also expected to write three detailed responses to at least two of your classmates' original posts. These responses are also expected to be thoughtful, quality comments in which it is clear you took the time to read a classmate's post and thought about what they wrote. While your responses do not have to be quite as long as your original post, unacceptable responses look like this, "I agree". "Right on.", "Are you nuts?"

It is okay to disagree with another student, but it must be done respectfully, and your post should also be done in a respectful manner. If you have an emotional reaction to a post, it is best to write your post in word and re-read to make sure it was not and cannot be interpreted as an insult to the student. Don't forget that the problem with posts and e-mail is that we lose the tone and intention behind your comments as well as feelings, so it is easy to insult someone unintentionally. What you write represents you.

Discussion posts comprise 25% of your final grade. Your chapter post must be posted by Wednesday night at midnight. Replies must be completed by midnight Sunday. Our week starts on Monday and ends on Sunday.

End-of-Course Evaluation

Students complete evaluations for each course attended at SMCC. Evaluations are submitted online and can be accessed through the student portal. Students can access the course evaluations beginning one week before the end of classes. The deadline for submission of evaluations occurs Monday at 5 p.m. following the last day of the class. You will receive an e-mail to your student e-mail account when course evaluations are available.

For Classes with any Face- to -Face Component

While the syllabus represents current plans, there may be changes during the semester in response to the on-going Covid-19 pandemic. Depending on the progression of the virus, it is possible that the College may have to suspend face-to-face instruction for part of the semester. If we must stop face to face instruction anytime during the semester, your instructor will contact you via your SMCC email or the Brightspace course homepage to discuss next steps for the course.

ADA Statement

Southern Maine Community College is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution and employer. For more information, please call (207) 741-5798. If you have a disabling condition and wish to request accommodations in order to have reasonable access to the programs and services offered by SMCC, you must register with the Disability Services Coordinator, Sandra Lynham, who can be reached at 741-5923. Further information about services for students with disabilities and the accommodation process is available upon request at this number. Course policies about online testing are modified to suit each individual's accommodations.

The Learning Commons:

The library, tutoring and writing centers, and reference/research assistance (typically located on the second floor of South Portland's Campus Center and in the Midcoast's LL Bean Learning Commons and Health Science Center).

Here you can find free academic support through individually scheduled and drop in, online tutoring. You can also find information literacy/research librarians, and professional academic strategy/planning mentoring online. While the physical space of the Learning Commons will not be available at this time, we can also work with you to set up zoom classrooms for small group study. Services are offered by appointment or as drop-in assistance.

To access services:

- Visit My Learning in My Maine Guide or
- Select the "tutoring needed" button if it appears inside your Brightspace course.

Whether On Site or Online, students have consistently reported that the Learning Commons is a friendly, risk-free, and helpful place to seek academic support. It has also been shown that those who make use of the Learning Commons do better in a course than those who do not. We strongly encourage you to take advantage of this valuable and enjoyable resource.

SMCC Pay-for-Print Policy

Each semester students receive a \$20 printing credit. The balance resets at the end of the semester and any remaining credits are removed. The College's pay-for-print system monitors printing on all printers (including those in general access labs, library printers, Tutoring Services, Campus Center Lounge and technology labs). Be sure to log OUT of the system when you've finished your printing, to prevent

unauthorized access to your account. Students can check the number of pages they have printed by using the Printing Balance tool available on SMCC computers (located in the lower right corner of the screen, near the clock). Departments with work study students who need to print documents for the department should contact the Help Desk at 741-5696 to have a special account set up. To find ways to reduce your printing charges, please go to the IT Help tab on My SMCC. If you have questions about the pay-for-printing policy or your printing charges, please contact the Help Desk at 741-5696 or send an e-mail to helpdesk@smccme.edu.

Refunds

Print jobs are eligible for a refund in the event of mechanical or electronic error on the part of the printer, print server, or software used to submit the job. Jobs are not eligible for a refund in cases where the job was not set up correctly, was submitted multiple times, or the student is not satisfied with the result. To request a refund, please bring the offending print to the IT Department in the basement of the Ross Technology Center. Refunds will be granted in the form of a credit to the student's account.

Add-Drop Policy

Students who drop a course during the one-week "add/drop" period in the fall and spring semesters and the first three days of summer sessions receive a 100% refund of the tuition and associated fees for that course. Please note any course that meets for less than the traditional semester length, i.e., 15 weeks, has a pro-rated add/drop period. There is no refund for non-attendance.

Withdrawal Policy

A student may withdraw from a course only during the semester in which s/he is registered for that course. The withdrawal period is the second through twelfth week of the Fall and Spring semesters and the second through ninth week of twelve-week Summer courses. This period is pro-rated for shorter-length courses, usually 75 percent of course meeting times; please check with the Registration Office. To withdraw from a course, a student must complete and submit the appropriate course withdrawal form, available at the Registration Office. This process must be completed either in person or by using SMCC e-mail accounts.

Plagiarism Statement

If an instructor suspects that a student has knowingly committed a violation defined in the Maine Community College System Policy on Student Grade Appeals and Academic Misconduct, the instructor has the authority to review the alleged misconduct and determine the grade that the student should receive for the assignment and the course. The instructor may assign a failing grade for the assignment or course and may require the student to complete additional work for the course. The instructor may consult with the department chair and/or the College's chief academic officer prior to making such decisions. If a student seeks to challenge an instructor's determination, the student should submit a grade appeal. Grade appeal forms are available in the Advising Office on the South Portland Campus or

in the administrative offices in the Learning Commons on the Midcoast Campus. An instructor may also refer the matter to the College's disciplinary officer for review under the procedures of the MCCS Student Code of Conduct